



MEDIA RELEASE



City of Medicine Hat - 500 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E9 - (403) 502-8071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDICINE HAT MOVES TO 100 PER CENT SMOKE FREE IN PUBLIC PLACES

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat today passed a new 100 per cent smoke-free bylaw.

The new Smoking Bylaw makes it illegal to smoke:

- inside a building;
- within three metres of an entrance or exit to a building or ventilation system air intake for a building;
- on a balcony of a building;
- in an outdoor area of a restaurant or drinking establishment such as a patio, where consumption of food or beverages is allowed; or
- inside a public vehicle.

"There is overwhelming support in this community to pass this bylaw," Mayor Garth Vallely said at Monday night's City Council meeting.

City Council voted six to three to pass the bylaw following a non-statutory public hearing in which approximately 200 residents attended both for and against the bylaw.

Following the hearing, Mayor Vallely spoke in favour of the bylaw and added, "I will lobby my fellow mayors and take a recommendation to the Premier's Office for a smoke-free Alberta because it is a health issue."

The new Smoking Bylaw comes into effect May 31, 2007 in conjunction with World No-Tobacco Day.

The provisions of the bylaw do not apply to private living accommodations.

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